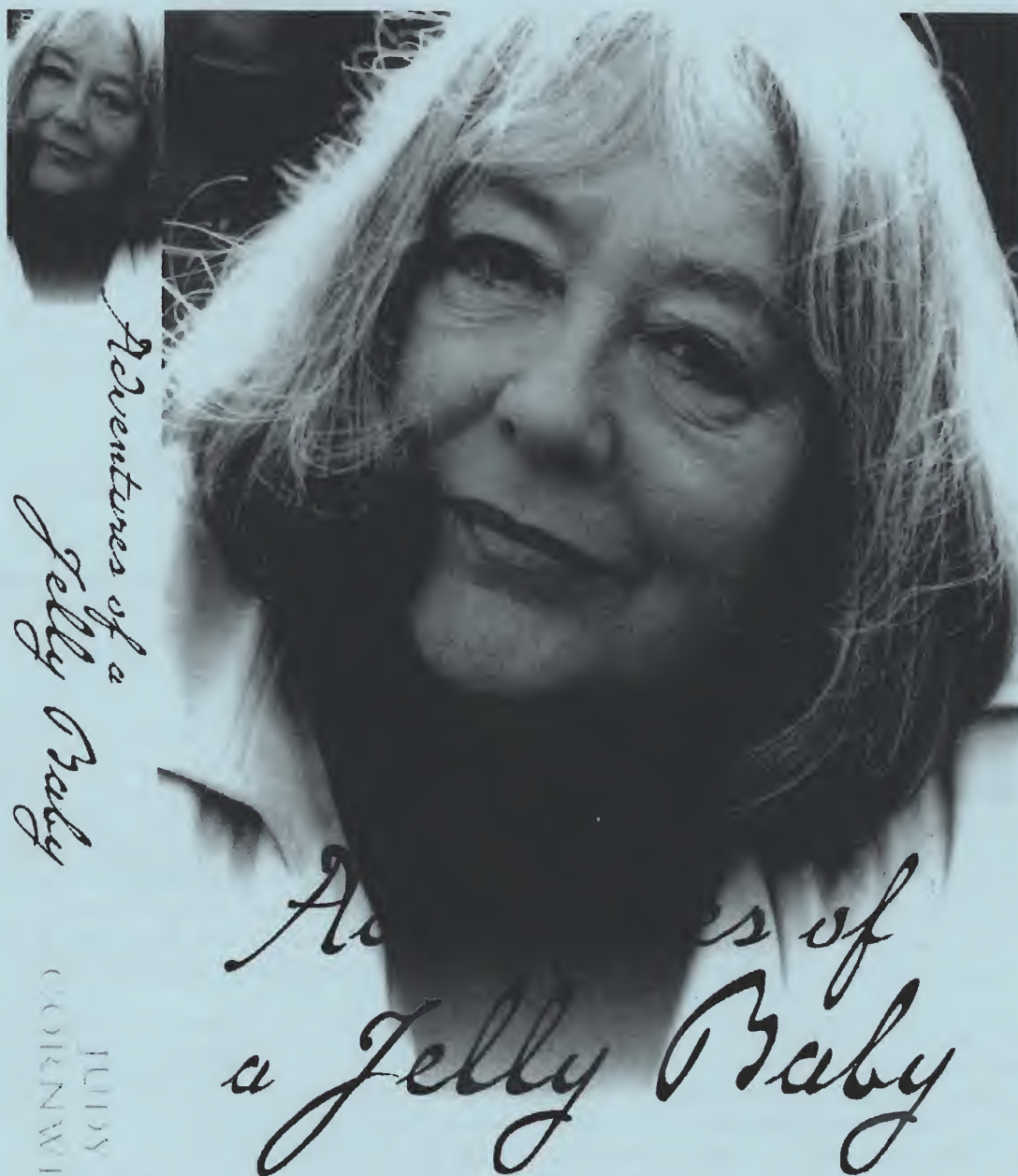




The Navy Lark Appreciation Society Newsletter

# NAVY DAYS



*Adventures of a  
Jelly Baby*

JUDY  
CORNWELL

## *Adventures of a Jelly Baby*

A funny and heartwarming memoir  
of a life lived on stage and screen



JUDY CORNWELL





## BUNG HO!

Well here we are cruising on the Solent again and what a busy stretch of water it has been this year. The Fleet review was hugely reminiscent of the 50s and 60s when Pompey really did have some marvellous vessels in port during those delightful Bank Holiday weekends. Interesting how they always managed to hide Troutbridge out of harm's way by sending us out on urgent missions knowing full well that Mr Phillips would direct us in completely the wrong direction and we would arrive back in Portsmouth too late to enjoy the festivities. I wonder how Cowes Week continues year on year knowing that Troutbridge is only ever a short cruise away?

Our thanks to many of you who have taken the time to write in and renew your membership. It's hugely appreciated when you clearly enjoy and support what we do here. We are not the biggest group of enthusiasts on the OTR scene but we are certainly very loyal!

Judy Cornwell has kindly forwarded the cover artwork from her forthcoming autobiography which is released in the UK on November 4th, 2005. This is going to be a must-have tome for all 'Navy Lark' fans. Place your order at your local bookshop now! Judy tells us there are over 60 photos including one from 'The Navy Lark'. This should chase those winter blues away.

There has been a good number of sightings of former Troutbridge cast members on the box in recent months. ITV3 has been re-running "Chancer" in which Leslie Phillips has ample opportunity to develop a truly unpalatable character as a scheming immoral business tycoon. Judy Cornwell and Charlotte Mitchell likewise have enjoyed reprise outings of their performances in detective fictions and it is marvellous to learn that Ronnie Barker is set to return to straight acting. A marvellous 4 part series by Tony Hawks featured material from The Navy Lark in two shows. The series examined essential characters from situation comedy but were never actually present in the script. Knowledgeable listeners of 'The Navy Lark' might like to compile their list of favourite people who never utter a line of dialogue in the show and post them in. Let's see who is the society's favourite missing person!

Contact with the British Film Institute regarding their curatorship of the Navy Lark movie stills elicited a surprising response. They want to charge the NLAS the "subsidised" price of £35 plus VAT for each print they make from the negatives. When asked if they might digitally archive the material and provide jpegs as an alternative to bromide prints, the conclusion was the BFI has no intention of transferring the archive to any digital format. If you compare the quoted price to that originally charged by the distributor for the same images (1/- or 5P) advertised in the 1959 press pack, the subsidised price has risen by 8224%. Can anyone think of anything else that has risen in cost by an equivalent percentage over the same period? The NLAS did point out that the images would be of little interest to anyone in the not too distant future and that both the BBC and the Royal Navy were happy to share their resources with Navy Lark fans but no further correspondence has continued.

### Navy Lark Appreciation Society Newsletter - Issue 20 Summer 2005

Subscriptions and articles for publication: Fred Vintner Honeysuckle Cottages, Little Street, Yoxford, Suffolk, IP17 3JQ  
Tape, CD, DVD / Video Library: David Matthews, 7 Boulsworth Avenue, Haworth Park, Kingston-upon-Hull HU6 7DZ  
Navy Lark Log: Tony Reynolds, 19 Somerset Drive, Birmingham, B31 4RA  
Webmaster: Steve Arnold, 100 Stanford House, Princes Margaret Road, East Tilbury, Essex RM18 8YR



We do have some of the original front of house material and Tony Lang has undertaken a mammoth task of transferring the movie to digital format in readiness for the Film Book we intend to publish.

Work has just finished on restoring a unique 6 sheet silk screened poster of the movie. Unlike the other movie posters this version features Ronald Shiner and Cecil Parker. Leslie Phillips is omitted. The poster is derived from Tom William Chantrell's artwork but resized and with new colourways. It is possibly unique! The paper on which the original image was printed is quite fragile so our digital restoration will mean that we can reprint and enjoy this 'lost' image once again.

Members who have video players with the American NSTC playback facility will be interested to learn that you can obtain a video copy of 'The Navy Lark' movie in 'letterbox' format from the USA. "Nostalgia Video" PO Box 606 Baker City 97814 ship the item within 10 days. A second company in the USA appears to offer the movie, but it is twice the price and they have yet to despatch the ordered item despite reminders. Use Nostalgia - they are cheap and reliable. A DVD of the film appeared on Ebay in August. The seller was in Canada and the item has been secured by Fred Vintner from the auction. It will be interesting to see the print quality and if there are any 'extras'. The package artwork was unimpressive and looked very 'budget' and amateurish. Our Canadian link has been contacted to see if further copies can be raised.

Ebay regulars will have seen more MP3 CD discs on sale this past season. Once again the collections vary in size and packaging options. Whenever possible a print out is made of these collections. Prospective purchasers of MP3 discs should be mindful that quality of already poor recordings can be compromised because of the way these files are crammed onto a disc. David Matthews has warned us that many collections currently being sold are giving the MP3 format a bad name when quality is being sacrificed for quantity on limited disc space.

Michael Connew purchased his collection from an American site and has transferred them across to his Ipod. However, he tells us that he has noticed variability in the material. If you are looking for good off air material of 'The Navy Lark' you can be sure that we have sifted through various alternatives and kept the best for you to enjoy. In fact the entire library is currently being upgraded from alternative recordings from the OTR community.

Back at base there has been some significant changes in the NLAS staffing. Iden has retired from his post in charge of the library. A huge thanks must go to him for his support and endeavours keeping the tapes and other material floating around and out of Pertwee's reach. Keeping the stock in tip top order and up to date is a demanding task and Iden really did an excellent job.

The new incumbent, David Matthews, took delivery of the archive under cover of darkness with a full military escort in June and has been putting up shelves ever since. He has just ordered video surveillance and a large dog just in case the Pertwee clan has a relative in Kingston-upon-Hull. David is an extremely keen and dedicated Old Time Radio enthusiast. He is hugely involved at all levels in radio preservation and he is determined to get even more of you using the library in the future. Additional British comedy series will be available in all formats to meet your collecting preferences. A further inducement to use the library is the revised pricing. Loans are now just £1.00 so now is the time to get your archive up to date and improve your collection. Contact David to learn more.

Steve Evans has found a couple of reel to reel tapes on which he used to record editions of 'The Navy Lark'. He tells us that he has no idea which shows are recorded and no way of playing them. Fortunately, our new librarian has some excellent machinery for transferring and recording these shows so we hope to have more to tell you in the Winter edition of Navy Days. Steve is not overly optimistic that these long forgotten spools contain missing gems but we can hope!

Barry Russell (now 78) has been in touch and has taken time to get a wonderful photograph re-printed on our behalf. He worked on "Watch Your Stern" - our adopted Navy Lark movie - and has sent us a full size copy of the black and white studio image and a delightful letter. This unique image is fully featured on a centre spread. The image presents studio technicians, cast and ancillaries in an "end of term" moment but formally recorded.



Roger Coombs is plying his old chum Andrew Skilleter with double rations of rum hoping that he can persuade this notable illustrator to tackle a drawing of our motley crew. Watch this space for further details next year. Meanwhile we have permission to republish a couple of earlier drawings (late 70s / early 80s?) of Jon in his marvellous incarnation as Worzel Gummidge.

Contact with George Evans, one of the show's writers, looked very possible as we went to press last time. An interview was prepared and forwarded to George's colleague Vince Powell - a close friend and co-writer who agreed to undertake the interview and send us the transcript. Unfortunately George's health is very changeable and his wife has written to say that George is enormously pleased that his work and our enjoyment of the show remain strong but George is unable to tackle any interview. We have thanked Jo for her time and effort and forwarded a token of our appreciation. It would have been a delight to learn more about the creative processes of preparing a script for broadcasting but we do have a resume of George's career from a publication he and Vince joint authored which we are pleased to be able to reproduce in this edition.



Radio 7 continues its journey through 'The Navy Lark' catalogue and we reproduce a 'full' listing of the station's output up until early September 2005. This list is *our* version of the Navy lark log. It may differ to other collectors' data. We will be pleased to learn of errors or additional shows the station has broadcast since its inception. We continue to write and attempt to elicit information from the BBC7 team but all attempts so far have been overlooked. Hugely disappointing because Mary Kalemkerian (Head of BBC7) was very supportive towards the NLAS when she was in her previous post.

Radio 3 featured The Navy Lark during Brian Kay's Light Programme on 7th October 2004. Further investigation on the World Wide Web uncovered an entry for the Dark Star Brewery (founded in 1994 in Ansty, Haywards Heath West Sussex) who produced a specialist beer called 'Bob's Navy Lark'. It was a limited run brew and had a specific gravity of 4.5%. The NLAS has written to the brewery but local NLAS members might like to visit the Evening Star pub and see if there are any labels of this wonderfully named brew still in existence.

We reproduce with kind permission of the publishers an article from Evergreen Magazine based on notes from the NLAS. If you would like to obtain a copy of the magazine please write to: Evergreen, PO Box 52, Cheltenham, Glos. GL50 1YQ. The cost is around £3.50 which includes postage and packing. Orders can be made via the telephone: 01242 515156 and all major cards are accepted.

The final pages of the script for the missing January 1962 Navy Lark episode complete this newsletter. Do keep your letters coming in and as I have singularly failed to recall an episode of the show, perhaps someone can put me to shame and remind me and Maureen Blincoe- who originally asked the question, "In which episode do we hear the comment after Troutbridge collides with an obstacle "I bet they heard that in Scapa Flow" after which a telephone rings and voice enquires - "Scapa Flow here, what was that bang?"

Thank you to everyone who ordered merchandise last time. The NLAS mug is currently sold out. This does not present a problem as we can re-commission more from the manufacturer if required. There would be a three week delay in posting out orders should further requests be made for this item. The production cost has now risen on this item, but we will keep the sale price to the original £8.00 plus £2.00 postage & packing.

We are very grateful to the BBC who continue to let us use their Navy Lark photographs in our newsletter. We continue to mine the archives just in case further negatives are found. Keep looking!

# BBC 7 Navy Lark broadcasts



Without doubt BBC7 has been making a huge difference to our listener group over the last three years. Our audience figures have improved and this has meant that many of us have been able to review our earlier recordings and improve our archive. It is heartening to report that David Matthews has possibly had one of his restored NL recordings aired on the station in recent months along with a Roger Bickerton tape.

Digital radio has still some way to go when it comes to UK coverage and indeed quality. Those of you following the radio debate will be familiar with the groans of many which admonish the BBC because it appears to have gone for growth and multi channel capability instead of audio quality. It's a debate that will continue until everyone enjoys a reasonable level of reception.

BBC7 revised its 'Navy Lark' schedules in early 2005. Devotees will recall that the show went out each Thursday at 12.30 midday and 19.30 in the evening. However, on Thursday 10 February 2005 the show disappeared from the schedules half way through series 12 with "Operation Recovery". The series arrived back just as quietly and unannounced on Thursday 24 March 2005 but at different times. 'The Navy Lark' is now broadcast at 14.30 on Thursdays and at 06.30 on Fridays. "The Slogan Contest" continued series 12 after its short break in transmission and was followed by selected episodes from series 13, 14 and 15 before returning to series 1 show 1 "The Missing Jeep" on Thursday 21 July 2005. The same programme is transmitted on both days.

Still yet to get a BBC7 signal? Freeview television offers a possible route to the service. Set top boxes are available at various prices but it is strongly recommended that any choice of equipment made has SetPal technology incorporated in the operating system to maximise your investment. Satellite viewers will have the best signal quality, and the BBC aims to roll out its own satellite Freeview service in a couple of years. This should mean that most of us will then be able to gain uninterrupted entertainment from digital services.

## BBC7 Broadcast 12.30/19.30

		Series/Show	Original Broadcast Date	Radio Collection	
19.12.2002	The Multiple Mines	01/09	24.05.1959	NL13	CD1
26.12.2002	The Lighthouse Lark	02/16	29.01.1960	NL2	CD2/2
02.01.2003	Mount Rumpus Atoll	03/07	14.12.1960		
09.01.2003	Commodore Goldstein	03/17	22.02.1961	NL1	
16.01.2003	The Northampton Hunt Ball	04/04	06.10.1961	NL1	
23.01.2003	A Deliberate Bashing	05/03	19.04.1963	NL2	
30.01.2003	Let Loose with a Chopper	07/07	22.08.1965	NL2	
06.01.2003	Mr Phillips' Promotion	08/09	30.10.1966	NL2	
13.02.2003	Cuthbert Joins The Navy	09/16	15.10.1967	NL1 (TS)	
20.02.2003	The Redundancy Drive	10/02	20.10.1968	NL3	
27.02.2003	The Forbodians Hijack Troutbridge	11/11	08.03.1970	NL3	
06.03.2003	The Put-A-Horse-Out-To-Graze Fund	12/01	16.05.1971	NL3	
13.03.2003	Impressions For Survival	12/02	23.05.1971	NL3	
20.03.2003	The Mysterious Radio Signals	12/04	06.06.1971	NL4	
27.03.2003	Operation Recovery	12/05	13.06.1971	NL4	
03.04.2003	The Slogan Contest	12/06	20.06.1971	NL4	
10.04.2003	Sir Willoughby at Shanghai (200 Edn)	12/07	27.06.1971	NL4	
17.04.2003	Operation Cowes Barge	12/08	04.07.1971	NL5	
24.04.2003	The Loch Ness Monster	12/10	18.07.1971	NL5	
15.05.2003	The TV Documentary	13/01	26.03.1971	NL5	
29.05.2003	No 1's Married Quarters	13/03	09.04.1972	NL5	
08.05.2003	US Navigator Swap	13/07	07.05.1972	NL6	
22.05.2003	Admiral Lord Nelson Phillips	13/08	14.05.1972		
01.05.2003	Opportunity Knockers	13/11	04.06.1972	NL6	
05.06.2003	Friday the 13th	13/12	11.06.1972	NL6	
12.06.2003	The New NAAFI	13/13	18.06.1972	NL6	
19.06.2003	The Montezuela Revolution	14/01	29.07.1973	NL8	
26.06.2003	The Digital Islands Go Unstable	14/05	26.08.1973	NL7	
03.07.2003	Povey An Admiral At Last	14/07	09.09.1973	NL7	
10.07.2003	The Talpinium Shell	14/13	21.10.1973	NL7	
17.07.2003	NANA	15/02	16.11.1975	NL8	
24.07.2003	The Case of the HGM Mk5	15/10	11.01.1976	NL8	
31.07.2003	The Embassy Lark				
07.08.2003	The Embassy Lark				
14.08.2003	The Embassy Lark				
21.08.2003	The Embassy Lark				
28.08.2003	The Embassy Lark				
04.09.2003	The Embassy Lark				
11.09.2003	The Embassy Lark				
18.09.2003	The Embassy Lark				

No records available

25.09.2003	The Multiple Mines	01/09	24.05.1959	NL13	CD1
02.10.2003	The Lighthouse Lark	02/16	29.01.1960	NL2	CD2/2
09.10.2003	Mount Rumpus Atoll	03/07	14.12.1960		
16.10.2003	Commodore Goldstein	03/17	22.02.1961	NL1	
23.10.2003	The Northampton Hunt Ball	04/04	06.10.1961	NL1	
30.10.2003	A Deliberate Bashing	05/03	19.04.1963	NL2	
06.11.2003	Let Loose with a Chopper	07/07	22.08.1965	NL2	
13.11.2003	Mr Phillips' Promotion	08/09	30.10.1966	NL2	
20.11.2003	The Redundancy Drive	10/02	20.10.1968	NL3	
27.11.2003	Cuthbert Joins The Navy	09/16	15.10.1967	NL1 (TS)	
04.12.2003	The Forbodians Hijack Troutbridge	11/11	08.03.1970	NL3	
11.12.2003	The Put-A-Horse-Out-To-Graze Fund	12/01	16.05.1971	NL3	
18.12.2003	Impressions For Survival	12/02	23.05.1971	NL3	
25.12.2003	The Mysterious Radio Signals	12/04	06.06.1971	NL4	
01.01.2004	Operation Recovery	12/05	13.06.1971	NL4	
08.01.2004	The Slogan Contest	12/06	20.06.1971	NL4	
15.01.2004	Sir Willoughby at Shanghai (200 Edn)	12/07	27.06.1971	NL4	
22.01.2004	Operation Cowes Barge	12/08	04.07.1971	NL5	
29.01.2004	The Loch Ness Monster	12/10	18.07.1971	NL5	
05.02.2004	The TV Documentary	13/01	26.03.1971	NL5	
12.02.2004	No 1's Married Quarters	13/03	09.04.1972	NL5	
19.02.2004	Admiral Lord Nelson Phillips	13/08	14.05.1972		
26.02.2004	US Navigator Swap	13/07	07.05.1972	NL6	
04.03.2004	Opportunity Knockers	13/11	04.06.1972	NL6	
11.03.2004	Friday the 13th	13/12	11.06.1972	NL6	
18.03.2004	The New NAAFI	13/13	18.06.1972	NL6	
25.03.2004	The Montezuela Revolution	14/01	29.07.1973	NL8	
01.04.2004	Digital Islands Go Unstable	14/05	26.08.1973	NL7	
08.04.2004	Povey An Admiral At Last	14/07	09.09.1973	NL7	
15.04.2004	The Talpinium Shell	14/13	21.10.1973	NL7	
22.04.2004	NANA	15/02	16.11.1975	NL8	
29.04.2004	The Case of The HGM Mk5	15/10	11.01.1976	NL8	
06.05.2004	The Missing Jeep	01/01	29.03.1959	NL11	CD1
13.05.2004	Operation Fag End	01/02	05.04.1959		CD1
20.05.2004	No. 1's Chair	01/03	12.04.1959	NL11	CD1
27.05.2004	The Fairground Lights	01/04	19.04.1959	NL11	CD1
03.06.2004	The Comfort Fund	01/05	26.04.1959	NL12	CD1
10.06.2004	Stuck Up The Inlet	01/06	03.05.1959	NL12	CD1
17.06.2004	The Admiral's Party	01/07	10.05.1959	NL12	CD1
24.06.2004	The Hank of Heather	01/08	17.05.1959	NL12	CD1
01.07.2004	The Multiple Mines	01/09	24.05.1959	NL13	CD1
08.07.2004	The Gun Mechanism Test	01/10	31.05.1959	NL13	CD1
15.07.2004	The Whittlesea Bay Yacht Regatta	01/11	07.06.1959		CD1
22.07.2004	The Psychology Test	01/12	14.06.1959		CD1
29.07.2004	A Watch on the Initiative Test	01/13	21.06.1959	NL13	CD1
05.08.2004	An Exercise in Filming	01/14	28.06.1959	NL13	CD1
12.08.2004	The Smuggling Spy	01/15	05.07.1959	NL14	CD1
19.08.2004	The Whittlesea Carnival and Fete	01/16	12.07.1959	NL11	CD1
26.08.2004	New at the Helm / The New No1	02/01	16.10.1959	NL9	CD2/1
02.09.2004	The Recruiting Drive / Fatso's Box Brownie	02/02	23.10.1959	NL9	CD2/1
09.09.2004	Bringing Back The Barge	02/03	30.10.1959	NL9	CD2/1
16.09.2004	The Mock Action	02/04	06.11.1959	NL9	CD2/1
23.09.2004	Going Dutch/The U Boat	02/05	13.11.1959	NL10	CD2/1
30.09.2004	The Figurehead	02/06	20.11.1959	NL10	CD2/1
07.10.2004	The Charter Trip to Antarctica	02/09	11.12.1959		CD2/1
14.10.2004	Cementing Relations	02/10	18.12.1959	NL10	CD2/1
21.10.2004	Strike Up the Band/Comfort Fund Dance	02/11	25.12.1959	NL10	CD2/1
28.10.2004	The Lighthouse Lark	02/16	29.01.1960	NL2	CD2/2
04.11.2004	The Morning After	02/22	11.03.1960		CD2/2
11.11.2004	Secret Mission to Calais	02/24	25.03.1960		CD2/2
18.11.2004	Mount Rumpus Atoll	03/07	14.12.1960		
25.11.2004	Commodore Goldstein	03/17	22.02.1961	NL1	
02.12.2004	The Northampton Hunt Ball	04/04	06.10.1961	NL1	
09.12.2004	A Deliberate Bashing	05/03	19.04.1963	NL2	
16.12.2004	Let Loose With a Chopper	07/07	22.08.1965	NL2	
23.12.2004	Mr Phillips' Promotion	08/09	30.10.1966	NL2	
30.12.2004	Cuthbert Joins The Navy	09/16	15.10.1967	NL1 (TS)	
06.01.2005	The Redundancy Drive	10/02	20.10.1968	NL3	
13.01.2005	The Forbodians Hijack Troutbridge	11/11	08.03.1970	NL3	
20.01.2005	The Put-A-Horse-Out-To-Graze Fund	12/01	16.05.1971	NL3	
27.01.2005	Impressions For Survival	12/02	23.05.1971	NL3	
03.02.2005	The Mysterious Radio Signals	12/04	06.06.1971	NL4	
10.02.2005	Operation Recovery	12/05	13.06.1971	NL4	

END OF SEASON





## BBC7 Broadcasts 2005

THURSDAY 14.30  
FRIDAY 06.30

		Series/Show	Original Broadcast Date	Radio	Collection
24.03.2005	The Slogan Contest	12/06	20.06.1971	NL4	
31.03.2005	Sir Willoughby at Shanghai (200 Edn)	12/07	27.06.1971	NL4	
07.04.2005	Operation Cowes Barge	12/08	04.07.1971	NL5	
14.04.2005	The Loch Ness Monster	12/10	18.07.1971	NL5	
21.04.2005	The TV Documentary	13/01	26.03.1971	NL5	
28.04.2005	No 1's Married Quarters	13/03	09.04.1972	NL5	
05.05.2005	US Navigator Swap	13/07	07.05.1972	NL6	
12.05.2005	Son of A Sea Lord / Admiral Lord Nelson Phillips				
19.05.2005	Opportunity Knockers	13/11	04.06.1972	NL6	
26.05.2005	Friday the 13th	13/12	11.06.1972	NL6	
02.06.2005	The New NAAFI	13/13	18.06.1972	NL6	
09.06.2005	The Montezuela Revolution	14/01	29.07.1973	NL8	
15.06.2005	The Digital Islands Go Unstable	14/05	26.08.1973	NL7	
23.06.2005	Povey An Admiral At Last	14/07	09.09.1973	NL7	
30.06.2005	The Talpinium Shell	14/13	21.10.1973	NL7	
07.07.2005	NANA	15/02	16.11.1975	NL8	
14.07.2005	The Case of the HGM Mk5	15/10	11.01.1976	NL8	
21.07.2005	The Missing Jeep	01/01	29.03.1959	NL11	CD1
28.07.2005	Operation Fag End	01/02	05.04.1959		CD1
04.08.2005	No 1's Chair	01/03	12.04.1959	NL11	CD1
11.08.2005	The Fairground Lights	01/04	19.04.1959	NL11	CD1
18.08.2005	The Comfort Fund	01/05	26.04.1959	NL12	CD1
25.08.2005	Stuck Up The Inlet	01/06	03.05.1959	NL12	CD1
01.09.2005	The Admiral's Party	01/07	10.05.1959	NL12	CD1
08.09.2005	The Hank of Heather	01/08	17.05.1959	NL12	CD1
15.09.2005	The Multiple Mines	01/09	24.05.1959	NL13	CD1
22.09.2005	The Gun Mechanism Test	01/10	31.05.1959	NL13	CD1

## Message Board

### Comedy

You're never far from a laugh on BBC 7

### Drama

10+ hours of books & drama a day

### Kids

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listen live



RealPlayer | Windows Media

### Comedy

Find a topic

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PASSWORD

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If you see a message which you feel breaks our House Rules, please click 'Complain about this post' next to the message in question. A moderator will then check the message as a matter of urgency.

Current Messageboard Status



**Navy Lark & Men from the Ministry** - utopia 7th post - 1 Sep 2005 20:05

I just had to say what a surprise & joy to hear the early episodes of these 2 comedy series. I did not know Dennis Price & Wilfred Hyde-white were in the first series at all ; I was brought up on Stephen Murray & Derek Guyler in the No 1 roles. Thank you BBC 7 --- they are still very funny too!! [reply] [Complain about this post]

# Navy Lark Appreciation Society

## Library Catalogue 2005

Items from the library are for the personal use of members and must not be copied or commercially exploited

The following items are available on Audio CD, mp3 or audio cassettes

Note:- The following recordings are the best quality available and have been restored with the objective of making them an enjoyable listening experience. Missing intro and out music have been added as necessary. Much interference has been removed and occasional edits made to maintain the story line. Members interested in the programmes as broadcast (eg including continuity announcements) should choose tapes in the range 001 to 100.

201	A	0101	The Missing Jeep	29/03/1959
	B	0102	Operation Fag End	05/04/1959
202	A	0103	Number One's Chair	12/04/1959
	B	0104	The Fairground Lights	19/04/1959
203	A	0105	The Comfort Fund	26/04/1959
	B	0106	Stuck Up The Inlet	03/05/1959
204	A	0107	The Admiral's Party	10/05/1959
	B	0108	The Hank of Heather	17/05/1959
205	A	0109	The Multiple Mines	24/05/1959
	B	0110	The Gun Mechanism Test	31/05/1959
206	A	0111	The Whittlesea Bay Yacht Regatta	07/06/1959
	B	0112	The Psychology Test	14/06/1959
207	A	0113	A Watch On the Initiative Test	21/06/1959
	B	0114	An Exercise in Filming	28/06/1959
208	A	0115	The Smuggling Spy	05/07/1959
	B	0116	The Whittlesea Carnival and Fete	12/07/1959
209	A	0201	The New No. 1/ New At The Helm	16/10/1959
	B	0202	The Recruiting Drive / Fatso's Box Brownie	23/10/1959
210	A	0203	Bringing Back the Barge	30/10/1959
	B	0204	The Mock Action / Going Dutch	06/11/1959
211	A	0205	The U Boat	13/11/1959
	B	0206	The Figurehead	20/11/1959
212	A	0208	Johnson Finds Treasure	04/12/1959
	B	0209	The Charter Trip To Antarctica	11/12/1959
213	A	0210	Cementing Relations	18/12/1959
	B	0211	The Comfort Fund Dance /Strike Up The Band	25/12/1959
214	A	0213	The Trip Up the Thames	08/01/1960
	B	0215	A Crisp Romance	22/01/1960
215	A	0216	The Lighthouse Lark	29/01/1960
	B	0217	Pertwee Posted to Portsmouth	05/02/1960
216	A	0218	Johnson's Diet	12/02/1960
	B	0219	Tug-of-War	19/02/1960
217	A	0221	The Cross Country Run	04/03/1960
	B	0222	The Morning After/ Hangover	11/03/1960
218	A	0223	The Admiral's Punch Bowl	18/03/1960
	B	0224	Secret Mission to Calais/ Rescuing Fifi	25/03/1960
219	A	0225	Mr Murray Goes Sick	01/04/1960
	B	0226	The Portarneyland Fishing Limit	08/04/1960
220	A	0301	In Portsmouth for a Re-fit	02/11/1960
	B	0302	Refitting Ebenezer Pertwee's Tug	09/11/1960



221	A	0303	Sea Trials and the Poppadom	16/11/1960
	B	0304	Mutiny Aboard Troutbridge?	23/11/1960
222	A	0305	The Explosive Biscuits	30/11/1960
	B	0306	Sir Willoughby Takes Over the Island	07/12/1960
223	A	0307	Mount Rumpus Atoll	14/12/1960
	B	0308	50th Show Special for the Queen	21/12/1960
224	A	0309	Johnson's Birthday	28/12/1960
	B	0310	Unexpected leave for Captain Povey	04/01/1961
225	A	0311	Families Day on HMS Troutbridge	11/01/1961
	B	0312	The Ghost Ship	18/01/1961
226	A	0313	Onnabushkan Flu	25/01/1961
	B	0314	Efficiency Drive	01/02/1961
227	A	0315	The Floggle Grommit Missile	08/02/1961
	B	0316	The Hitch Hiking Counterfeiter	15/02/1961
228	A	0317	Commodore Goldstein	22/02/1961
	B	0318	Mr. Philips has Navigation Tuition	01/03/1961
229	A	0319	CPO Pertwee and the Laundry	08/03/1961
	B	0401	Returning from Leave	15/09/1961
230	A	0402	Captain Povey's a Spy	22/09/1961
	B	0404	The Northampton Hunt Ball	06/10/1961
231	A	0405	Hijacked	13/10/1961
	B	0406	Admiral Troutbridge	20/10/1961
232	A	0407	Relatives and Reservations	27/10/1961
	B	0408	Humgrummits On the High Seas	03/11/1961
233	A	0409	Are Captain Povey & Mrs. Povey Married?	10/11/1961
	B	0410	Cine Cameras at Sea / Mount Pot Erupts	17/11/1961
234	A	0411	The Citizen Adjustment Course	24/11/1961
	B	0412	A Hole Lieutenant	01/12/1961
235	A	0413	Spy Catching in Casablanca	08/12/1961
	B	0414	Mount Pot Erupts	15/12/1961
236	A	0415	Captain Povey's Shop	22/12/1961
	B	0416	Leading Seaman Goldstein's Party	29/12/1961
237	A	0417	The Invitation	05/01/1962
	B	0419	A Strange Hobby	19/01/1962
238	A	0420	Mr. Philips Gets Engaged	26/01/1962
	B	0421	The Sinking of the Bubble Car	02/02/1962
239	A	0422	Long Jonathan Pertwee	09/02/1962
	B	0423	The Admirals Accident Report	16/02/1962
240	A	0424	Over the Sea to Rosyth	23/02/1962
	B	0425	The Return of Sir Fredrick Flatley	02/03/1962
241	A	0426	The Ship's Concert	09/03/1962
	B	0501	First day out of dock	05/04/1963
242	A	0502	100th edition	12/04/1963
	B	0503	A Deliberate Bashing	19/04/1963
243	A	0504	Whittlesea Regatta	26/04/1963
	B	0505	HMS Troutbridge gets a Rocket	03/05/1963
244	A	0506	The Ghost Ship	10/05/1963
	B"	0601	Wren Chasen Returns	27/09/1963
245	A	0602	On the Carpet	04/10/1963
	B	0603	The Bunglese Spies	11/10/1963
246	A	0604	Troutbridge's Party	18/10/1963
	B	0605	Rescuing Admirals	25/10/1963

247	A	0606	The Demise of the Depth Charges	01/11/1963
	B	0607	The Struggle for Promotion	08/11/1963
248'	A	0608	Navigation by Computer / Fred Computables	15/11/1963
	B	0609	Stormy Weather	22/11/1963
249	A	0610	Chasing the Kepac	29/11/1963
	B	0611	The Submerged Island	06/12/1963
250	A	0612	The Sicilian Secret Agent	13/12/1963
	B	0613	Germany's Troutbridge	20/12/1963
251	A	0614	Confirming Povey's Rank	27/12/1963
	B	0615	The Calais Dock Strike	03/01/1964
252	A	0616	Johnson's Memoirs	10/01/1964
	B	0617	The Emperor of Tratvia	17/01/1964
253	A	0618	Open Day / Doing their 15 sided Nuts	24/01/1964
	B	0619	Stuck on a Sandbank	31/01/1964
254	A	0701 a	Back in the Muck Again	11/07/1965
	B	07015	Taking Some Liberties	Transcription version
255	A	0702	Smugglers in the Solent	18/07/1965
	B	0703	Mr. Murray is Victimised	25/07/1965
256	A	0704	The Povey's Move House	01/08/1965
	B	0705	Captain Povey Reports Sick	08/08/1965
257	A	0706	Admiral Petwee's Fleet?	15/08/1965
	B	0707	Let Loose With a Chopper	22/08/1965
258	A	0708a	Making a Right Pig's Breakfast	Transcription version
	B	0708b	A Change of Heart	29/08/1965
259	A	0709	The Mysterious Pudding Mine	05/09/1965
	B	0710	The Hovercraft Training Course	12/09/1965
260	A	0711	The Sabotaged Floggle Toggle Box	19/09/1965
	B	0712	The Potarneyland Training Exercise	26/09/1965
261'	A	0713	Going On Leave to Croydon	03/10/1965
	B	0801	Where Is Troutbridge?	04/09/1966
262	A	0802	The Float-a-Peddle Fiddle	11/09/1966
	B	0803	A Sticky Business	18/09/1966
263	A	0804	Buoys will be Buoys	25/09/1966
	B	0805	Steamship Day	02/10/1966
264	A	0806	Farewell to HMS Varsity	09/10/1966
	B	0807	The Army Lark	16/10/1966
265	A	0808	Just the Ticket	23/10/1966
	B	0809	Mr. Philips' Promotion	30/10/1966
266	A	0810	Pertwee and the Tratvian Beer	06/11/1966
	B	0811	The PM Papa	13/11/1966
267	A	0812	Getting Rid of Pertwee	20/11/1966
	B	0813	Off to Sea At Last	27/11/1966
268	A	0901	Back from the Antarctic	02/07/1967
	B	0902	Fishers Off the Faeroes	09/07/1967
269	A	0903	A Filthy Ferry Boat	16/07/1967
	B	0904	Jigsaws and Jemmies	23/07/1967
270	A	0905	The Naval Review	30/07/1967
	B*	0906	The Curious Caravan Case	06/08/1967
271	A	0907	Frenchmen in Berth J.41	13/08/1967
	B	0908	The Police Drop In	20/08/1967
272	A	0909	Mr. Murray's Endurance Course	27/08/1967
	B	0910	Women in the Wardroom / Decorate Wardroom	03/09/1967

273	A	0911	Troutbridge's Silver Jubilee Party	10/09/1967
	B	0912	Cecil, The Navigational Computer	17/09/1967
274	A	0913	A Russian Rendezvous	24/09/1967
	B	0914	The Bugged and Burgled Beer	01/10/1967
275	A	0915	Picking Up the Poppadom	08/10/1967
	B	0916	Recruiting Cuthbert	15/10/1967
276	A	0917	The Flying Machine	22/10/1967
	B	0918	When Sub-Lt Philips was at Dartmouth	29/10/1967
277	A	0919	A Fishy Business	05/11/1967
	B	0920	Troutbridge In Quarantine	12/11/1967
278	A	1001	Troutbridge Electrifies Portsmouth	13/10/1968
	B	1002	The Redundancy Drive	20/10/1968
279	A	1003	The Smugglers Return	27/10/1968
	B	1004	Captain Trotter Takes Charge	03/11/1968
280	A	1005	The Anti-Submarine Missile Launcher	10/11/1968
	B	1006	Sub-Conductor Philips	17/11/1968
281	A	1007	The South Kawowan Summit	24/11/1968
	B	1008	Pertwee's Enlistment Expires !	01/12/1968
282	A	1009	Captain Povey Takes Over	08/12/1968
	B	1010	Sir Willoughby Goes to Kawowa	15/12/1968
283	A	1011	The Padre's Birthday	22/12/1968
	B	1012	The Portsmouth Kiosk	29/12/1968
284	A	1013	The Radio Beacon	05/01/1969
	B	1014	Mr. Philips' Wrong Uniform	12/01/1969
285	A	1015	Harold Wilson Reviews the Fleet	19/01/1969
	B	1016	The Relief of the Weather Ship	26/01/1969
286	A	1017	The Mickey Mouse Toothbrush	02/02/1969
	B	1018	The Brick Smugglers	09/02/1969
287	A	1101	Lt-Comdr Murray and the Squatters	28/12/1969
	B	1102	What is the SSE ?	04/01/1970
288	A	1103	Promotion for CPO Pertwee	11/01/1970
	B	1104	Povey is sent to Forbodia/Running Aground	18/01/1970
289	A	1105	Sir Willoughby's Party	25/01/1970
	B	1106	The Fleet Initiative Test	01/02/1970
290	A	1107	C.P.O. Pertwee's Long Service Medal	08/02/1970
	B	1108	The Phenomenal Pertwee Tug	15/02/1970
291	A	1109	The Security Clampdown	22/02/1970
	B	1110	The Anniversary and the Washing Machine	01/03/1970
292	A	1111	Forbodians Hi-Jack Troutbridge	08/03/1970
	B	1112	Mr. Murray is Married	15/03/1970
293	A	1113	The Honeymooners Return	22/03/1970
	B	1114	CPO Pertwee & the Lead Half Crowns	29/03/1970
294	A	1115	Leslie Leaving the Navy	05/04/1970
	B	1116	The Mark 31 Radar	12/04/1970
295	A	1201	Put a Horse out to Graze Fund	16/05/1971
	B	1202	Impressions for Survival	23/05/1971
296	A	1203	The Beard-Growing Race	30/05/1971
	B	1204	The Mysterious Radio Signals	06/06/1971
297	A	1205	Operation Recovery	13/06/1971
	B	1206	The Slogan Contest	20/06/1971
298	A	1207	Sir Willoughby at Shanghai (200th Ed)	27/06/1971
	B	1208	Operation Cowes Barge	04/07/1971



299	A	1209	Mr. Murray's Anniversary	11/07/1971
	B	1210	The Loch Ness Monster	18/07/1971
300'	A	1301	The TV Documentary	26/03/1972
	B	1302	The P.O.W. Escape Exercise	02/04/1972
301	A	1303	No. 1's Married Quarters	09/04/1972
	B	1304	The Newhaven-Dieppe Smuggling Run	16/04/1972
302	A	1305	The Bumble Spit Lighthouse Affair	23/04/1972
	B	1306	The Tongipouhaha Treasure	30/04/1972
303	A	1307	The US Navigator Swap	07/05/1972
	B	1308	Son of a Sea Lord /Admiral Lord Nelson Phillips	14/05/1972
304	A	1309	Hypnotising Mrs. Povey	21/05/1972
	B	1310	The Master of Sardinia	28/05/1972
305	A	1311	Opportunity Knockers	04/06/1972
	B	1312	Friday 13th	11/06/1972
306	A	1313	The New NAAFI	18/06/1972
	B	1401	The Montezuela Revolution (Time Bomb)	29/07/1973
307	A	1402	The Island Swordfish	05/08/1973
	B	1403	Bunged in the Rattle	12/08/1973
308	A	1404	Kidnapped Down Under/Kangaroo Polka	19/08/1973
	B	1405	The Digital Isles Go Unstable	26/08/1973
309	A	1406	Egbert Hitches a Ride	02/09/1973
	B	1407	Povey an Admiral at Last	09/09/1973
310	A	1408	The Borgholm Horse Trials	16/09/1973
	B	1409	Captain Povey's Wig	23/09/1973
311	A	1410	The Brain Pill	30/09/1973
	B	1411	Operation Showcase	07/10/1973
312	A	1412	CPO Pertwee - Yacht monger	14/10/1973
	B	1413	The Talpinium Shell	21/10/1973
313'	A	1501	Sequel to the Talpinium Shell / Cast Adrift	09/11/1975
	B	1502	NANA / Ill Bred Fred	16/11/1975
314	A	1503	Helen, the New Wren	23/11/1975
	B	1504	The Relief of Station 150	30/11/1975
315	A	1505	Black is Beautiful / Leslie Philips Lost Son?	07/12/1975
	B	1506	Sydney and the Stamp	14/12/1975
316	A	1507	Commander Murray - Show jumper	21/12/1975
	B	1508	Horrible Horace Comes Aboard	28/12/1975
317	A	1509	Officers' & Gents' Lib / Burning their Bras	04/01/1976
	B	1510	The Case of the HMG Mark 5	11/01/1976
318	A	1511	Uncle Wilberforce Pertwee	18/01/1976
	B	SP	The BBC is sending the bill to Buckingham Palace	16/07/1977

Now available: Double DVD collection of all 'The Navy Lark' shows for you to enjoy in MP3 format.



Contact David Matthews ( address inside the front cover ) to learn more!

# The Other Baker Street Detective

## SEXTON BLAKE ~ A BIOGRAPHY

Sexton Blake is a fictional detective with similarities to Sherlock Holmes. They appeared on the scene within a few years of each other ~ the first Holmes story being published in 1887 and the first Sexton Blake story in 1893. Both are portrayed as private consulting detectives operating from London's Baker Street. Both are bachelors, though there is often a strong hint of romance in the Sexton Blake stories, Yvonne Cartier being the object of Blake's affection. Blake and Holmes both employ a housekeeper ~ Mrs. Hudson looking after the Holmes' residence and the equally strong character of Mrs. Bardell attending to domestic arrangements for Sexton Blake.

SEXTON BLAKE in a Groping Detective-Adventure Story of the Criminals' CONFEDERATION



Both detectives have an assistant but whereas Dr. Watson is a mature medical man, Sexton Blake's assistant is a young man (late teens or twenties) called Tinker who addresses Blake as "Guv'nor" or "Chief". Sexton Blake also has a bloodhound named Pedro. Holmes and Blake both work amicably with the Metropolitan Police. Sexton Blake often works closely with Detective Inspector Courtts, a dependable but unimaginative bowler-hatted, plain clothes policeman of stocky build and ruddy complexion. Blake and Courtts share a mutual respect based on many years of working closely together in their battles with the criminal fraternity. Despite the similarities between the Sherlock Holmes and the Sexton Blake stories, there are also a great many differences. All the Holmes stories came from the pen of one man (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) whereas many authors wrote Sexton Blake stories, some rivalling the talent of Conan Doyle. Indeed for millions of readers, particularly in the 1930s, there was only one Baker Street detective ~ Sexton Blake. Blake does not share the familiar Sherlock Holmes characteristics - hooked nose, deerstalker, twisted calabash pipe and violin. Nor does he spend much of his time relentlessly pacing his chambers in his dressing-gown. Sexton Blake does not resort to opium to heighten his awareness. Blake is portrayed as a clean-cut man of indeterminate age, but probably between 39 and 42. He is tall at 6' 1", slim, but muscular and broad shouldered. His hair is dark, his eyes blue-grey and expressive. His hair comes down to his forehead in a deep V. He is well educated, having obtained a medical degree, though he has never practised as a doctor. Blake is a smoker of cigarettes and pipe tobacco, and he has the occasional glass of spirits. He owns a Rolls Royce Silver Ghost called the Grey Panther, and also



holds a pilot's licence.

It was this revamped Blake who reached the radio for his definitive wireless incarnation in 1967 in a splendid series which starred William Franklin as Sexton Blake, Heather Chason as Paula Dane and David Gregory as Tinker. The scripts were by veteran Blake author Donald Stuart who'd been writing Blake stories since the 1930s. He adroitly updated some of his vintage tales and provided the link with the Golden Age:

*"Blake is very much of the time, of the '60s; it's swinging London; but at the same time has lost none of the verve, none of the Golden Age feel."*

The series had some arresting openings:

BLAKE

You'd better stop Tinker. It's no good crawling along blindly like this. The fog's so thick you can scarcely see the radiator.

TINKER

It wasn't so bad a couple of miles back!

BLAKE

We've run into a pocket, I think.

PAULA

What are we going to do?

BLAKE [OPENING CAR DOOR]

I'll get out and try to find out where we are. It's like trying to see through thick soup! I shan't be long.

PAULA

You know, we ought to have stopped at that pub. I did suggest it but Mr Blake was determined to press on

[GUNSHOT]

PAULA

Oh! What was that?

TINKER

It sounded like a shot! I'm going to see what's happened!

PAULA

I'm coming with you!



TINKER  
Hey! Guv'nor!

PAULA  
Mr Blake!

BLAKE [DISTANT]  
Follow the fence!

TINKER  
Okay Guv'nor.

BLAKE  
Follow it along and you'll come to a railway station.

PAULA  
Railway station? Oh well, that's something!

BLAKE  
Where are you now?

TINKER  
Here Guv'nor! Quite close!

BLAKE  
Why didn't you stay in the car?

PAULA  
We thought we heard a shot.

BLAKE  
You did! Somebody took a pot shot at me from inside the station.

PAULA  
The station?

BLAKE  
Yes, but it's derelict. Looks like one of Doctor Beeching's casualties.

TINKER  
Hold on. There's a ticket on the floor here.  
Looks fairly new. It hasn't been clipped. Stone me!

PAULA  
Why the excitement?

TINKER  
Look at this ticket!

PAULA  
Let me see. But... that's ridiculous!

BLAKE  
What's ridiculous?

TINKER  
Well... it's an ordinary railway ticket but it says:  
'First Class Single... to Nowhere'!



The stories had Blake tackling some up-to-date '60's problems, such as Russian spies in MI5. As well as Cold War conflicts, Blake also tackled contemporary social issues, such as drug addiction. These were modern problems but there were also welcome reminders of the diabolical conspiracies of pre-war years.

Associated Redifusion Television developed Sexton Blake for the small screen in 1967. Regrettably the audience found the series wanting and the show disappeared into the ether. However, Phillip Ridgeway's interpretation of the same year was a radio success. Alastair Scott Johnston, the show's producer, developed a pacey style with each "30" minute episode delivering a self contained story which gave the radio audience spills and thrills in a delightfully upbeat setting.

Without doubt the show's chemistry was down to some excellent casting, Alastair was able to provide dramatic opportunities to Navy Lark people. Heather Chasen, Richard Caldicot, Harold Kasket (1959 movie) and the Big Business Lark's Nigel Graham. Heather Chasen fairly 'smoulders' in these programmes and certainly sounds every inch a femme fatale!!! Ice cold showers chaps. ....

The following shows have been mined from William Harding's personal archive and if you enjoy comic style thriller fiction contact David Matthews our librarian and he will endeavour to meet your needs in the format you prefer. Without doubt the shows fall into the 'ripping yarn' category. Great fun

**Sexton Blake**  
**Tinker**  
**Paula Dane**

**William Franklin**  
**David Gregory**  
**Heather Chasen**



Originally broadcast via the BBC's **Home Service** on Thursday evenings at 7.00 pm (regional variations apply)

Devised by Phillip Ridgeway Written by Donald Stewart Produced by Alastair Scott Johnston

23.08.1967	01	<b>Lilies for the Ladies</b>	Hilda Schroder Wilfred Carter Norman Mitchell Basil Jones James Beck	02.11.1967	11	<b>The Eight Swords</b>	Eric Sutton Wilfred Babbidge Coudron Ewer Derek Seaton Beth Boyd
30.08.1967	02	<b>The Sin Eater</b>	James Beck Henry Stamper Ronald Baddely Norman Mitchell Betty Hardy	09.11.1967	12	<b>A Murder of Crows</b>	Andrew Jack Wilfred Babbidge Betty Hardy Stephen Jack
14.09.1967	04	<b>Bluebeard's Keys</b>	(no credits)	16.11.1967	13	<b>Double and Quit</b>	Ralph Trueman Bernard Brown Humphrey Morton Frank Henderson Wilfred Babbidge
21.09.1967	05	<b>The Vampire Moon</b>	Frank Henderson Richard Caldicot Henry Stamper Geoffrey Matthews Majorie Westbury	23.11.1967	14	<b>You Must Be Joking</b>	Bernard Brown Humphrey Morton Harold Kasket Wilfred Babbidge Ralph Trueman
05.10.1967	07	<b>The 5th Dimension</b>	Gordon Ewar Hayden Jones Harold Kasket Humphrey Morton Betty Hardy Ian Thompson	30.11.1967	15	<b>Conjurors Coffin</b>	Alexander John Harold Kasket Michael Harbour Ann Murray Wilfred Babbidge Margaret Robertson
19.10.1967	09	<b>First Class Ticket to Nowhere</b>	Sian Davis Wilfred Carter Ronald Herdman David Brownley Douglas Hankin	07.12.1967	16	<b>Blood of Rameses</b>	John Bowen Sian Davies Beth Boyd John Forest Wilfred Babbidge Peter Welsh
26.10.1967	10	<b>Enchanted Editor</b>	Christian Mark Wood (?) Sian Davis Betty Hardy Wilfred Charter Humphrey Morton	14.12.1967	17	<b>No Trees for the Peak</b>	Beth Boyd John Bowen Ronald Baddeley Wilfred Babbidge Nigel Graham



Please advise of any cast spelling inaccuracies. The above lists are made from our recordings of the continuity announcer's dialogue which is not always clearly discernable

# Watch Your Stern



How often do we really consider the impact that long list of names has on a movie? Perhaps these days, now that the exit. Fortunately for us one of our fellow 'Navy Lark' enthusiasts had the good fortune to work on "Watch Your Stern" was able to transfer his skills and trade to the film industry as a floor electrician. Work at Pinewood was consistently worked both in the studios and on location. "Watch Your Stern" used Chatham Docks for the location scenes and Barry at the Naval Barracks and aboard ship. Busy days were concluded with a wonderful meal back at the hotel and then a demanded physical strength, stamina and teamwork to manoeuvre them around and set up a shoot. Barry recalls the company, and being part of a creative team was a constant delight. The 'Watch Your Stern' interior sequences were Grateful thanks to Barry Russell, and full copyright acknowledgements to Pinewood Studios for reproducing this image







bligatory National Anthem has been abandoned after a screening, those credits are ignored in the rush for the  
 Barry Russell started his working life in the army then joined the merchant navy. He gave up his life at sea and  
 interesting and varied. He became an integral technician of one of the studio's lighting units. This meant he  
 fondly remembers the Pinewood coach setting off for Kent with the team aboard. The crew enjoyed their time  
 hour or two in a local hostelry. Equipment in those days was large and heavy. Cables were weighty and  
 ongoing sense of fun, humour and happiness of those days working for Pinewood studios. It was a great  
 all filmed back in the studio's sound stages, where this marvellous production team photograph was taken.  
 The DVD is currently available for around £8.00 from Play.com and Amazon.com





# With my reputation?

**He's Britain's best-loved bounder. But 70 years into his career, Leslie Phillips is a lot more than just a cad with a moustache. Rather, says Dan Davies**

**H**aving pressed the doorbell (it doesn't go "ding dong", rather disappointingly) and shuffled backwards on the front step of Leslie Phillips' grand west London home, I feel childishly excited in anticipation of receiving one of the great man's trademark greetings. Perhaps a devilish twitch of the moustache? A "hell-ooo" that sounds like it has been swilling around the back of his cravat-adorned throat for decades; part cheroot smoke, part cashmere? In fact, no. Instead, a small, well-dressed 80-year-old pokes his head out and ushers me inside. His home, it turns out, is jammed with furniture, antiques and curios, and in residence today are Leslie's wife (Angela), umpteen cats (one angry) and sundry Polish builders.

Leslie shows me into a large living room, excusing the mess, and invites me to pick a chair from the selection on the limited floor space available not occupied by the piles of his private correspondence. It's the by-product of writing his autobiography, he confides, which is a project he's been meaning to get round to for years. You have to hope that everything is contained in these piles of paper, all down in black and white, because as he begins to look back over a 70-year career that spans well over 100 films (the latest one of these, Churchill: The Hollywood Years, is out soon, but is sadly not a terrific movie), scores of theatrical

productions, and work with the greatest British actors of successive generations, it quickly becomes apparent that his relentless schedule has reduced names and dates to something of a blur.

Pigeonholed in the popular psyche as the roguish charmer from the Carry On and Doctor marques, Phillips has spent the second half of his extraordinary working lifespan quietly reminding the world that there is more to his repertoire than suggestive winks and saucy cackles. In 1969 he told his agent that he was ditching the Lothario image and set about reclaiming a professional reputation that had been built as a child actor learning the ropes from Laurence Olivier, Vivien Leigh, Rex Harrison and John Gielgud. It

**'Cads are not likable. The essence of being a bit of a devil is that people like you. That's why I don't like the word cad'**

was a reputation that looked set to grow after he was offered his big break in Hollywood during its mid-1950s heyday.

"I didn't want to become a poor man's David Niven," says Leslie of his decision not to commit himself to the States after winning strong reviews in *Les Girls*. "And besides, I was a theatre actor and I didn't necessarily think of America as a theatre place."

While he can utter the words "dahhling" and "I say" like nobody else on the planet, and was part of the artistic Ibiza set of the 1960s

that numbered Denholm Elliott, Errol Flynn, Ian McShane and Terry-Thomas among others, do not, despite appearances, dismiss Phillips as a stereotypical luvvie. His longevity has been driven by a work ethic that stems from his poor upbringing in 1930s Tottenham.

"I had no illusions," he says of his paid acting debut as a 10-year-old in *Peter Pan* alongside Anna Neagle. "I went on stage as a way to earn money for my mother and the family because my father had died." By the age of 18, when he was called into the army, Leslie Phillips had done little else but act for his keep.

After the war, which, he says, "left me damaged all over the place... I didn't think I would survive" (he was discharged), he eventually returned to his trade. He recalls sitting at lunch with members of the cast during a break in filming at Pinewood. They were bragging about the first year they had worked there. "I was the youngest so no one said anything to me," he says. They were shocked silent when he told them he had first worked at the studios in the late 1930s.

"I'm a worker," offers Phillips quietly by way of explanation. "There was a time when I was

playing the lead in a play in London, doing a radio series, a television series and I made two films, all at the same time. You can do that in England but you can't do that so easily in the States." Although he claims to be baffled by the association, we eventually return to his position alongside Terry-Thomas and David Niven in the unofficial roll call of British cads. It is a tag he's both thought about and is comfortable with.

"I get worried by the name. Cads and bounders are not likable. I sort of fought that. I played



naughty fellows but everyone liked me. Cad is a Victorian word that means you're a bastard. It's got mixed up. We were womanisers, not nasty, unpleasant or dislikable. If we were dislikable we would not have become idols. I suppose the essence of being a bit of a devil," he adds, "is that people like you. That's why I don't like the word cad."

Phillips nevertheless perfected the persona of suave wag; a creation that owed something to the pencil-thin moustache, which survives to this day, something to an impeccable wardrobe, but was ultimately most indebted to "the voice", a highly lucrative Edwardian purr that was first cultivated from his native cockney. "It happened by accident," he insists, "and is totally unconscious."

Phillips bridles slightly when I ask about the last role that required him to ditch "the voice". "I am capable, you know. I did one quite recently, played a Yorkshireman actually. They asked me whether they wanted anyone to go through the part with me but I was in York Rep for some years, just after the army.

"Ronnie Barker is a great mate and I see a lot of him. He does every accent and he's a brilliant raconteur. He still practises it and now he's coming back. He told me he never would but he is and he's doing it very cleverly. He's coming back as an actor and not in his comedy status. He's a fine actor, and that's why he's so different to

**'The voice' was cultivated from his native cockney. 'By accident. It's unconscious'**

all the others. I'd put him at number one, he's always been a marvellous actor."

Leslie's wife, his second, and the four grown-up children from his first marriage, have ceased discussing his plans for retirement.



Oh I say!... Phillips in *Carry On Constable* (top left), *Don't Just Lie There* (top right), and with Harry Enfield in *Churchill: The Hollywood Years* (above)

He has always said that a fear of poverty drove him on but, ironically, now that he no longer needs to work himself so hard, the opportunity to pick and choose is limited by to the paucity of good material out there. "The family would like me to go on because they think I'm happier when I'm working. But it is more difficult to do good things and that's why I'm thinking of stopping.

"I really love good work," he says, pointing me towards a programme for *Naked Justice*, a John Mortimer play that he recently enjoyed appearing in, "because it's easy making a living doing crap. I've been in every

conceivable type of film. I've done the smallest, the cheapest, the crappiest. I've done some wonderful big blockbusters [Spielberg's *Empire Of The Sun*, *Harry Potter*], I've tasted every known type of director and every big star. I've had a wonderful career."

Indeed he has. Having specialised in playing squadron leaders, captains and commanders in his early films, and a titular feast of minor aristocracy thereafter, is it not now time Sir Leslie was awarded his own knighthood for keeps? ■

*Churchill: The Hollywood Years is out on Friday*

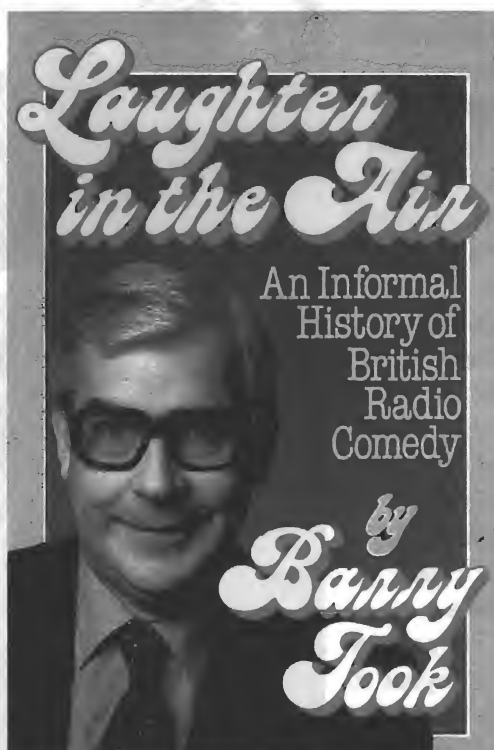
# LARKING ABOUT

By the end of 1975, 'The Navy Lark' had become the longest-running situation comedy ever, its life span of seventeen years surpassing even such shows as 'Take It From Here', 'Educating Archie', 'ITMA', and 'The Clitheroe Kid'. Admittedly, there haven't been as many episodes, but in terms of years it has outstripped all its rivals in the comedy field. The programme began in 1959, when Lawrie Wyman approached producer Alistair Scott-Johnston and said he'd like to write a show for Jon Pertwee. At that time Pertwee had just completed 'Pertwee's Progress', which had not been a great success, and Scott-Johnston told Wyman he saw Pertwee 'not as a comedian but as an actor, a comic actor admittedly, but an actor. I felt it would be good to do a show with a services background and as I'd been in the army and Lawrie had been in the RAF, I suggested the navy on the grounds that that way we wouldn't argue about detail.' Once that was agreed they had two elements for a show—a star, Jon Pertwee, and a setting, an accident-prone frigate in the Royal Navy. on-stage personality was brash, and to someone who was smooth, and we hit on needed an idiot, and there was no-one Leslie Phillips, so we got him.' The together and a trial recording made. It was on the air. As Scott-Johnston says, 'It was from the start. Well, to be honest, we never first script right, but thereafter it was spot on. left after the first series to work in America, Murray. Ronnie Barker left when his clashed with the 'Navy Lark's' Sunday appeared only in one series, but Heather episode, and Jon Pertwee was only one time he suffered agonies with lumbago, chair in order to avoid any unnecessary position he broadcast brilliantly.

Alistair Scott-Johnston's career as a BBC joined the Corporation in 1939 as an department, and remembers vividly the production about the events leading up to one of his gramophone turntables caught the Archduke Ferdinand and I was with my remaining five turntables and at asphyxiating. The Effects Studio was in the bowels of Broadcasting House several floors away from the main studio. The producer kept coming through on the talk-back, asking what the hell was going on—and I couldn't tell him.' Luckily a passer by saw his predicament and grabbed a fire extinguisher. The programme finished with Scott-Johnston engulfed in thick black smoke in a foam-filled sound effects room.

When the war started, he enlisted in the Grenadier Guards and was in due course commissioned, serving in the armoured division all over the world. After the war he returned to the BBC as a junior producer doing 'a bit of everything—light music, Outside Broadcasts, comedy,' and eventually took over the highly successful 'Henry Hall's Guest Night'. 'Henry taught me showbusiness, particularly the need for planning. He taught me that if you haven't got a show before you go into the studio—go sick!' Though this advice was not always possible: once when he was producing 'The Frankie Howerd Show', Denis Price, that week's guest star, phoned to say he might be a little late. Scott-Johnston asked why. Denis Price said, 'Well you see, I'm phoning from Zurich.' Eventually, thanks to Swiss Air and a police escort from Heathrow, Price arrived in time, but only just. The programme was already on the air. On another occasion during that same series, Richard Burton was the guest star and really didn't have enough to do. The writers quickly added a sequence based on the idea of an actor's audition piece, in which Burton had two pages of histrionics running the gamut from 'Oh darling, I love you' to 'Look out, he's got a gun!', and other such clichés. Every line had a change of mood, and it was a tour de force. Unfortunately, they'd forgotten to tell Frankie Howerd of this addition to the script and when Richard Burton launched into his tirade, Howerd started searching furiously through his script to try and discover what was going on. Eventually Burton reached a ringing climax, and the audience stood and cheered for two minutes. Howerd shambled up to the mike and in one of the epic 'toppers' of all time said, 'Show me *that* in the script.'

'The Navy Lark' was one of Scott-Johnston's biggest successes and one of which he is justly proud. Lawrie Wyman now writes the show with George Evans, and there seems no earthly reason why 'The Navy Lark' shouldn't survive as long as the British Navy which it so genially mocks. Here is a typical sequence. The accident-prone duffers of HMS Troutbridge are on a Hovercraft familiarization course.



the fictitious HMS Troutbridge, Scott-Johnston recalls, 'Jon's counterpoint this we needed Denis Price. Then I felt we better at playing idiots than supporting cast were gathered good, and the show duly went one of those shows that worked got the first three pages of the It always changes. Denis Price and was replaced by Stephen television commitments recordings. Judy Cornwell Chasen has never missed an missing once, even though at and was literally tied to a studio movement, from which odd

producer is fairly typical. He effects boy in the Drama occasion when, during a major the start of the First World War, fire. 'It happened just as I'd shot desperately trying to carry on the same time prevent myself

producer is fairly typical. He effects boy in the Drama occasion when, during a major the start of the First World War, fire. 'It happened just as I'd shot desperately trying to carry on the same time prevent myself



RATING *Excuse me, Commander Ward, sir.*  
 WARD *What is it, Stonehouse?*  
 RATING *The two officers and the CPO from Troutbridge are ready to make their first solo trip in the Mark Five Hovercraft, sir.*  
 WARD *I always knew that one dark day they'd send us somebody from Troutbridge for instruction. Are the rescue and fire services standing by?*  
 RATING *Yes, sir.*  
 WARD *All shipping in the area been warned?*  
 RATING *Yes, sir.*  
 WARD *Everyone on the station been warned to take cover?*  
 RATING *Yes, sir.*  
 WARD *Oh well, that's all we can do. I may as well go out to the apron and send them off. It's at times like these one realizes that they should never have let the Home Guard stand down.*  
 RATING *Good luck, sir.*  
 WARD *Don't be ridiculous, Stonehouse. We all know what my luck is today. It wouldn't be quite so panic making if that blond one didn't keep saying, 'Honestly, sir, it's just like driving a car.'*  
 RATING *Well, in a way I suppose it is, sir.*  
 WARD *Possibly, Stonehouse, but blondie can't drive a car **either**. Come on—let's get them launched. Six to four they buzz off backwards at forty miles an hour.*

GRAMS Music link  
 FX Hovercraft running

PHILLIPS *Honestly, sir, it's just like driving a car.*  
 MURRAY *Is it really? I suppose that's why you backed us out of the garage at forty miles an hour.*  
 PERTWEE *Here—that Commander Ward is pretty nippy, isn't he, sir? I've never seen anyone clear an eight foot fence from a standing jump before.*  
 MURRAY *It was the way he was still able to run like fun afterwards that fascinated me.*  
 PHILLIPS *I think he was trying to catch up with Able Seaman Stone-house, actually.*  
 PERTWEE *Catch him? In twenty yards he'd overtaken him.*  
 MURRAY *Odd the way some people panic, isn't it? Anything on the radar screen, Chief?*  
 PERTWEE *No, sir. I've been wondering about that. Either the radar isn't working or somebody must have warned all the shipping in the area that we're out for a spin.*  
 MURRAY *Well, that would make sense. Jolly disappointing, though.*  
 PERTWEE *Disappointing, sir?*  
 MURRAY *Yes. It would have been fun to wave at some of the chaps from this thing.*  
 PHILLIPS *Then why don't we buzz into the dockyard, sir? A quick slither round Troutbridge so that Commander Bell and all the others can have a butchers at us.*  
 PERTWEE *Oh no, sir—please.*  
 MURRAY *Certainly not. I absolutely forbid it.*  
 PHILLIPS *Perhaps you're right, sir.*  
 MURRAY *It's out of the question.*  
 PERTWEE *Completely, sir.*  
 MURRAY *Ye-es. (Pause) It would have been fun though.*  
 PHILLIPS *It would have shaken them rigid.*  
 PERTWEE *(pause) Did Commander Ward actually say we weren't to go into the dockyard, sir?*  
 MURRAY *Well, no, but obviously...*  
 PHILLIPS *Oh, obviously, sir, yes.*  
 PERTWEE *Quite so. It would have been fun though.*  
 MURRAY *Oh, enormous. Pity.*  
 PHILLIPS *Shame.*  
 MURRAY *Oh, absolutely. (Pause) Pom-pom-pommerty pom—diddle diddle pom—pommerty pom.*  
*Of course, he didn't actually say...*  
 PERTWEE *Not a word, sir. Not a word.*  
 MURRAY *Even so...*  
 PHILLIPS *Oh, go on, sir—let's.*  
 MURRAY *Oh, all right then. Push the stick forward, Mr. Phillips and head for the dockyard. And for pity's sake don't rip your skirt on a mooring buoy.*  
 PHILLIPS *Pardon? Boys don't wear skirts...*  
 PERTWEE *The rubber skirt round the hovercraft, sir!*  
 PHILLIPS *Lumme—that's a relief.*  
 MURRAY *Increase speed up to forty knots and head for the dockyard, Mr. Phillips.*  
 PHILLIPS *Aye aye, sir. Now, which way would that be?*  
 PERTWEE *Oh, toss for it like you usually do, sir. Heads it's that way—tails it's behind us—and if it lands on its edge, we're there.*  
 MURRAY *So that's how he navigates—I've often wondered.*  
 PERTWEE *Well, now you know, sir. Now you know*



Editor's note: Barry Took was given the opportunity to select his favourite 'Navy Lark' episode for Radio 4 on Thursday 14 June 2001. He chose a rarely heard recording 'A Crisp Romance' which gave the NLAS a rare chance to acquire a really good copy of a much neglected broadcast. A huge vote of thanks must go to the producer who gave Barry a chance to re-visit the BBC sound archives and make his selection.



## GEORGE EVANS

### RADIO:

'We're In Business' starring Harry Worth & Peter Jones,  
 'The Navy Lark', (1969 onwards) Leslie Phillips, Jon Pertwee, Stephen Murray, Heather Chasen, Richard Caldicot, Michael Bates, Tenniel Evans  
 'Crowther's Crowd' starring Leslie Crowther, June Whitfield and Ronnie Barker,  
 'The Emery Papers' (Dick Emery),  
 'This Is Your Jim' (Jimmy Edwards),  
 'The Alfred Marks Show' (Alfred Marks),  
 'Punchline' (Bob Monkhouse),  
 'Jon Pertwee's Sketchbook'.

### TELEVISION:

'Here's Harry', (Harry Worth),  
 'Life With Cooper' (Tommy Cooper),  
 'Hudd' (Roy Hudd),  
 'The Mike & Bernie Winters Show' (Mike and Bernie Winters),  
 'Comedy Playhouse',  
 'The Dick Emery Show',  
 'Up Pompeii' (Frankie Howerd),  
 'Love Thy Neighbour',  
 'Bless This House',  
 'Mother Makes Three'.

Contributions to: 'This Is Your Life', 'Mind Your Language'.  
 Special material written for - Beryl Reid, Jon Pertwee, Les Dawson, etc. . .

### SCREEN PLAYS:

'Carry On Dick' (Original idea and Treatment),  
 'The David Galaxy Affair',  
 'Queen of the Blues'.

### THEATRE:

Special material for many pantomimes.

TUTOR of 'Creative Writing' at the Sutton College of Liberal Arts, 1986 to present day.  
 Devised, Created and Hosted for Radio. 'Get Writing' creative writing series. (Transmitted 1990).

### BOOKS:

Contributed to 'The Jon Pertwee Book of Monsters', Edited 'Moon Boots and Dinner Suits' (Jon Pertwee autobiography), contributions of articles and short stories to many magazines.

Co-author with VINCE POWELL of 'Get Writing' published by BBC Enterprises 1990.





## Well-loved programmes from the world of wireless

**D**o you recall a popular nautical radio programme which brought regular weekend chuckles to millions?

"Full ahead both. Steady... left hand down a bit... steady..."  
"Look out!"  
"Everybody down (crash). Oh lummy!"

If you do, then you will have happy memories of *The Navy Lark*, the longest running radio comedy

series of the time which lasted more than 18 years. Its familiar theme tune was Eric Spear's "*Trade Wind Hornpipe*" played by Tommy Reilly on harmonica. Originally composed as a piece of library music, it became an all-time favourite which everybody recognized.

Conceived as a foil for the talents of comic actor Jon Pertwee, *The Navy Lark* grew into a national institution. It also made a star of the hitherto unknown Ronnie Barker who, in the role of Able Seaman (Fatso) Johnson,

was always being bullied by his Chief Petty Officer (Pertwee).

The other comic actor specially recruited for the show was upper-class wit, Leslie Phillips, who was absolutely perfect in the role of Sub-Lieutenant, regularly involved in some mishap, crunching his ship against the quayside or any other vessel in the vicinity.

The "ship" was also a star. It was loosely modelled on a real Navy frigate called *HMS Troutbridge*, named after an 18th-century admiral who fought at the Battle of Cape St. Vincent. *HMS Troutbridge*, however, was named after Sir Benjamin Troutbridge, a fictitious 18th-century admiral who, according to the *Radio Times* in 1961, started the Battle of Cape St. George when his bad language was misinterpreted as a new set of orders. Needless to say, he went down with his ship!

The two ships' badges were similar except for the broken bridge which

◁ Surprisingly few photographs exist of "The Navy Lark" but this one shows all the main actors. **Back row, left to right:** Ronnie Barker (Able Seaman Johnson); Jon Pertwee (Chief Petty Officer); Michael Bates (Lt.-Cmdr.); Tenniel Evans (AB Goldstein); **Middle row, left to right:** Stephen Murray (No. 1); Richard Caldicot (Captain Povey); Leslie Phillips (Sub-Lt.); **Front row:** Heather Chasen (left) and Judy Cornwell.

Barker, Pertwee, Bates, Evans and Chasen between them also played well in excess of 400 other roles!

thanks to CPO Pertwee and his unofficial network of skulduggery.

The link between captain and Sub-Lieutenant Phillips was the super smooth, unflappable, sarcastic and sardonic "Number One", played in the first series by film star Dennis Price, after which he unwisely left to act in a Broadway play which flopped. Sadly, he ended his career prematurely as a debt-ridden alcoholic on the beautiful Channel Island of Sark where he is buried in the churchyard.

Price was succeeded by Stephen Murray who made the role his own, always on hand to put his junior back in place after the latest calamity. There was always something solid nearby which got in the way. Cue the sound of grinding metal and sloshing



bore testimony to Sub-Lieutenant Phillips's accuracy at demolishing anything and everything which got in his way! Ironically, the real *HMS Troutbridge* went to the breaker's yard in 1970, seven years before its fictitious sister departed the studio for the great naval air waves in the sky.

*Troutbridge* became the collection point for any number of naval misfits about whom Commander Povey, played by Richard Caldicot, was always writing letters of complaint to the Admiralty. The fact that these communications never arrived was





water when something like the following would take place:

PERTWEE: "Blimey, we've taken the jetty with us, sir!"  
 PHILLIPS: "Stop engines. Now... how did we do that?"  
 MURRAY: "Simple Mr. Phillips, you forgot to cast off."  
 PHILLIPS: "Clumsy!"



<From the left, Stephen Murray, Richard Caldicot and Ronnie Barker look on in disdain as Leslie Phillips feels somewhat queasy.

It was Phillips and Pertwee who got most of the laughs but all the other characters played their integral parts to perfection. Long-suffering Commander Povey, later elevated to Captain, had an unfortunate marriage to his battle-axe wife Ramona, who although rarely heard, was always berating her husband down the phone, in a rather similar way to Captain Mainwaring's wife, Elizabeth, in *Dad's Army*.

Ronnie Barker also played Lt.-Commander Stanton, while Tenniel Evans, in addition to being the gormless Welshman, Able Seaman



An advertising poster for the film which was released in October, 1959.

("Henry Povey, I want a word with you!" "Not now my love, can't it wait?" "No it can't!") As a Wren she always gave Sub-Lt. Phillips a run for his money and was not beyond conviving herself. The other Wren who popped up periodically was played by Judy Cornwell. Brilliant mimic Janet Brown also later joined the cast.

Below decks, Pertwee regularly poked fun at Fatso whom he often described as "You barrel of lard".

Barker replied with "You're rotten you are" or "I'm not happy," both of which became popular public catchphrases. Regular communications along the voice-pipe between engine and bridge never failed to raise a laugh, the capacity for misunder-

man (Taffy) Goldstein ("Starboard lookout 'ere."), took the parts of the crusty interfering Admiral (from whom all things were unskillfully concealed), and the Governor, one Sir Willoughby Todhunter Brown. Michael Bates played Able Seaman Ginger and more than 100 other minor parts!

Whether on radio, television or films, Leslie Phillips was never far from the female sex. In *The Navy Lark* the focus of his attentions was usually Heather Chasen who played the roles of a Wren, the Captain's Secretary and also his bossy wife



(continued)

standing between incompetent officers and brainless crew being almost unlimited.

Pertwee was never short of a money-making scheme and although he usually came out on top, unlike Sub-Lt. Phillips who invariably ended up well and truly in it, he did sometimes get caught out. Each time this happened there would be a sharp intake of breath followed by maniacal laughter while he hastily thought of a way out of the looming crisis.

Many of Pertwee's problems were

Ronnie Barker's first publicity photograph with black shirt and yellow tie!

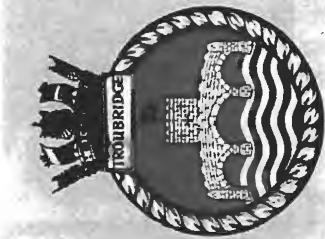


connected with Nunkie, one of several nautical relatives with an eye to a quick profit. In Nunkie's case it was usually a convoluted situation involving his tug boat which just happened to turn up at the precise moment it was needed. *HMS Troutbridge* once found itself being pulled in two different directions at the same time on the Manchester Ship Canal!

Almost before the first series had got under way, plans were made for a film of the same name which was quickly put together and released as early as October 1959. Surprisingly, only Leslie Phillips took part from the fledgling radio series with Ronald Shiner playing the CPO. Other parts were taken by Cecil Parker, Nicholas Phipps, Cardew Robinson, Clive Morton, Gordon Jackson and Hattie Jacques, with McDonald Hobley as the narrator.

The third series saw the 50th performance given before the Queen and Queen Mother on the 21st birthday of the WRNS at the Royal Festival Hall, London. Even more credence was given to the show when a rehearsal was attended by the First Sea Lord from the "Hadmiralty" as CPO Pertwee used to pronounce it.

In theory there is a limit to the number of plots on a single theme, and so at the end of the fourth series a bold new venture was tried out. Everyone was demobbed and given new roles in *The TV Lark* which was based on a television studio working for Troutbridge Commercial TV. It



The badge of the real Royal Navy frigate HMS Troutbridge is seen here on the left. She was originally built in 1943 as a wartime destroyer and ended her days in 1970, several years before her fictitious sister ship left the BBC. The badge of the latter (right), however, depicts a broken bridge thanks to the navigational skills of Sub-Lt. Phillips and his world-famous catchphrase "Everybody down!"

HMS Troutbridge 1943-70

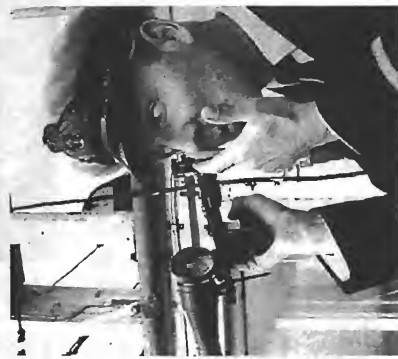
HMS Troutbridge 1959-77

survived 10 episodes before everyone was recalled to the Senior Service and a new lease of nautical life on the ocean radio waves.

Laurie Wyman continued as the scriptwriter for 13 series with Alastair Scott-Johnson as producer. It was a classic case of not interfering with a successful formula, a lesson which the BBC would do well to remember.

Later series of *The Navy Lark* saw our heroes out in the Orient creating mayhem among foreign warships and naval personnel. This made for completely new situations but all good things come to an end. By the time of the 15th and final series it was time for reflection on a brilliant programme which everyone enjoyed, based on simple humour at which no one could take offence.

There were no gimmicks, just down-to-earth simple comedy which was enjoyed by young and old alike. The highly devious crew of *HMS Troutbridge* had just two basic princi-



Despite the pretence, Sub-Lt. Phillips knew very little about navigation!

ples in life: "If someone's got something on you, then get something on him, quick! If you can't explain it, then hide it and hop it!"

With hindsight it is remarkable that the BBC managed to keep so many famous names together for so long because many of them were also involved in other major roles. Jon



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"Fatso" (left), "Taffy" and Pertwee raid the stores!

Pertwee was a prominent *Dr. Who*, (and later *Worzel Gummidge*) while Leslie Phillips seemed to pop up almost every time there was comedy on the large and small screens. Ronnie Barker teamed up with Ronnie Corbett in the hugely successful television series *The Two Ronnies* while Stephen Murray was no stranger to more serious theatrical roles, including Shakespeare.

Sometimes there was a gap of as much as 12 months between series but the actors themselves got on like a house on fire and just carried on as though they had never been away. Pertwee and Barker in particular took great delight in provoking fits of

giggles during recording which irritated the producer but was great for camaraderie. Pertwee, Caldicot, Bates and Murray later died and Barker retired while still in his prime, but Phillips continued as a serious thespian while Evans became a vicar in Buckinghamshire

The end came on 26th June 1977, a special edition for the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Although there was a brief reunion introduced by Roy Hudd in 1992, it was a fitting climax to the memory of some great comedy actors who gelled together so well for so long and gave us huge entertainment.

PETER WORSLEY & FRED VINTNER



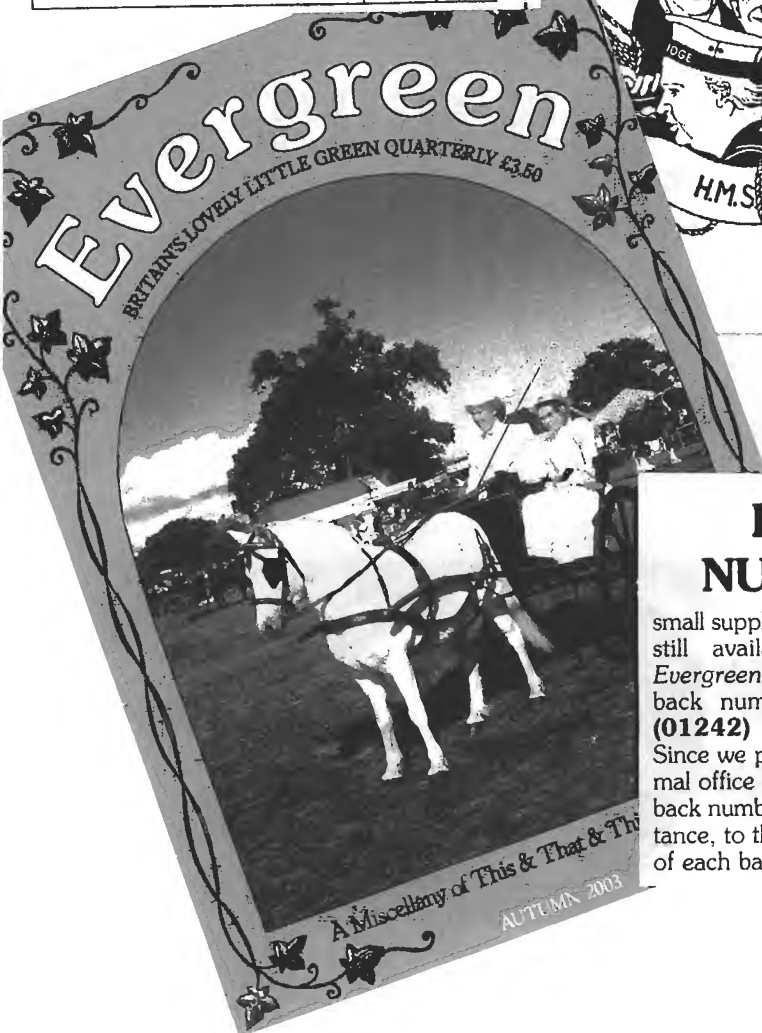
The Navy Lark Appreciation Society exists to keep alive the traditions of this great programme. For further information contact:

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Final instalment of MISSING episode 12.01.1962

- 25 -

1. PERTWEE: Right. Ready Johnson?
2. JOHNSON: Course I am. You've been using me as a doormat for years. (GIGGLE)
3. PERTWEE: Alley-oop....stone me! It's like standing on a plastic blancmanage. Good morning.
4. NO.1: Right Johnson. I'll go up first and then I'll pull you through.
5. JOHNSON: Aye, aye, sir.
6. NO.1: Right. My feet are through. Give me your arm. Up you come.
7. JOHNSON: (GROANS)
8. NO.1: Johnson, you really must go on a diet.
9. JOHNSON: It's not me sir. It's Robin Hood's little arrow laying a bit 'eavy
10. NO.1: Come on. That's your head through. Right. Now your shoulders... ..
11. JOHNSON: (GRUNTS)
12. NO.1: Now then. All set for the big obstacle. Easy now ....easy....
13. JOHNSON: Oooo-er. I'm stuck.
14. NO.1: Yes. I was afraid of that.
15. PERTWEE: (OFF) What's happening sir?
16. NO.1: I'm afraid Johnson's caught amdiships.

1. JOHNSON: 'Elp...I'm not 'appy....'elp.....
2. NO.1: Be quiet Johnson. Stay where you are.. .
3. JOHNSON: I've got no choice, sir.
4. NO.1: That's true. Well - er - just relax. We'll get help. If necessary we'll go to Plymouth and get Captain Povey to get you out of this.
5. JOHNSON: I should never have had Robin Hood's plastic arrow...
6. GRAMS: MUSIC LINK
7. FX: BUZZER
8. POVEY: Captain Povey here.
9. HEATHER: (DISTORT) Sorry to trouble you sir, but the Pride of the Service and a Welsh terrorist are here to see you.
10. POVEY: Good grief. I never thought they'd get to Plymouth. Show them in.
11. FX: TAP ON DOOR. DOOR OPENS
12. POVEY: Well gentlemen. Very nice to see you. Without wishing to be rude, you are the last people I expected to see in Plymouth.
13. PHILLIPS: It wasn't easy sir.
14. POVEY: So I gathered. The reports I've had from the umpires say they've never seen a sign of you. I suppose you did make a landing.
15. PHILLIPS: Oh yes we did sir. Here's a stick of St. Mawes rock .. lettered all through.

1. NO.1:               Where did he get that from?
2. PERTWEE:           Off the shelf of the Granthemums' larder. It was the only thing that Johnson didn't eat. It probably wouldn't have agreed with Robin Hood's plastic arrow anyway.
3. POVEY:             Will you all stop chuntering amongst yourselves. Now who won?
4. ALL:               We did.
5. POVEY:             Well but you can't all have won. This man Goldstein's a terrorist.
6. PERTWEE:           You can say that again.
7. NO.1:             Frankly sir, it's rather a long story.
8. POVEY:             Is it? Well you can dictate a full report to my secretary aboard Troutbridge as we sail back to Portsmouth.
9. NO.1:             Certainly sir. We shall be only too pleased to... As we what?
10. POVEY:            Sail to Portsmouth in Troutbridge. Now which dock is she in?
11. PERTWEE:           Which dock is she... (HIGH LAUGH) I wish I was dead.
12. NO.1:             Oh Troutbridge. Er - Mr. Phillips, which dock....?
13. PHILLIPS:          Er me? Oh - er - which - er (WILD GIGGLE) Lumme - we've forgotten her...I mean she's still at Falmouth ...er..as prisoner in the dock - er - that is I demand a trial by jury - er - she's stuck in the larder - (WILD GIGGLE) Defence rests.



1. POVEY:            Jumping jellyfish. I knew this was too good to last.  
What have you done with Troutbridge? - set her on  
fire, sunk her in the Carrick Roads, sold her to a  
foreign power -- I wouldn't be surprised....
2. FX:            PHONE RINGS
3. POVEY:            (SWEETLY) Excuse me.
4. NO.1:            Not at all.
5. PHILLIPS:        Any time.
6. PERTWEE:        Especially now.
7. FX            PHONE UP
8. POVEY:            (SWEETLY) Hullo...Captain Povey speaking...
9. FRED:            (DISTORT) Good arternoon. Police Constable Fred  
Tiddy, North Percuil Constabulary, here.
10. POVEY:          Who?
11. FRED:           Police Constable....
12. POVEY:          Never mind. I heard that bit. What d'you want?
13. FRED:           Well it's not me 'xactly. It's a great big fat  
rating of yours name of Goering - says you'll vouch  
for him -
14. POVEY:          WHAT!
15. FRED:           We just got him out of a larder window - with  
difficulty I might add. Over-eaten issself if you  
ask me, but he says he's on an exercise.

1. POVEY: Just a minute. (TO OTHERS) What's been going on?  
First you've lost your ship, now the Police Constable  
says there is one of our ratings stuck in a larder  
window and calling himself Goering.  
  
(REST OF SCRIPT VERY FAST)
2. PHILLIPS: Ah. Well we can explain.
3. PERTWEE: In time.
4. NO.1: You see sir, there was this Home Guard....
5. PHILLIPS: With a punctured pike in his shed.
6. POVEY: WHAT!
7. PERTWEE: And Johnson had eaten this plastic Robin Hood.
8. POVEY: Eh? Now look here.....
9. NO.1: You see he's never stood down and there were these  
posters....
10. PHILLIPS: You know the things....never have so few fought for so  
many - pintas-of-milk a day.
11. POVEY: Posters?
12. PERTWEE: And as prisoners of war we demanded...
13. FRED: (OVER ABOVE - WHEN HE CAN GET IN) Hallo - P.C.  
Fred Tiddy here.....Coo-ee.
14. POVEY: Prisoners of war. .!
15. NO.1: Yes, well that was after Mr. Phillips fell in the  
Percuil.

1. POVEY: In the what?
2. PERTWEE: Yes well we found out Charlie had arrested the postman for mending his chain....
3. NO.1: And then Martha....
4. POVEY: Oh for pity's sake. Let's find your ship - WHEREVER IT IS - and get back to Portsmouth and my dear wife Ramona. I've had enough...
5. GRAMS: CLOSING THEME BM 252-A BAND 4 SEGUE TO:  
BM 118-B BAND 1 DOWN FOR:
6. ROBIN: (OVER MUSIC) That was Leslie Phillips, Stephen Murray and Jon Pertwee working their passage in "The Navy Lark" written by Lawrie Wyman.  
  
Leslie Phillips was the Sub Lieutenant  
Stephen Murray was the Number One  
Jon Pertwee was the Chief Petty Officer  
Captain Povey was played by Richard Caldicot  
Judy was Judy Cornwell  
Charlie Grantham was Michael Bates  
Martha was Heather Chasen  
Able Seaman Johnson was Ronnie Barker  
Taffy Goldstein was played by Tenniel Evans  
The recorded production was by Alastair Scott Johnston.
7. GRAMS: THEME UP TO END

